

FOR THE LADIES

THE PARENT-KID WAR

By Bonita Armstrong

I expected that when my children became teenagers I would have some conflicts with them over the way they dress or the types of music they listen to, etc. I hear many mothers today complaining of boys wearing their pants five sizes too big or how horrible they think rap music is and so forth.

The trends among teens these days are loose-fitting, free-flowing clothes that are unrestricted and uninhibited. Their music is militant, hard-hitting and prophetic. These rebels of the 90's are reminiscent of those of the 60's, who are now, by the way, running the country. So on goes the war between parent and teen. Just as it was when we were teenagers.

Therefore, I'd been preparing myself for that parent-teen battle and never saw what was coming. Grade school kids joining the ever present parent-kid war. When my six-year-old joined the fight, I knew I was in big trouble.

Last year when he was in kindergarten I picked out his clothes everyday, laid them out and he put them on without a fuss. I took it for granted that it would be this way for a long time. I was wrong.

Now that he's a grown-up first grader, every time I pick an outfit for him he frowns, pouts and cries. He never wants to wear those sweaters with the little alligator on them. He wants to wear big, baggy T-shirts everyday even in winter. If he wears a sweatshirt it has to have something on it like a picture of Michael Jordan or some other sports hero. And, he only wants to wear his baseball cap turned backwards.

I fought with him for a few weeks into school but soon relented some of my territory to allow him to make a few decisions on his own and provide for some expression of self... with a little supervision of course. In the course of all this may ham, I noticed that my son was thinking for himself, which at first did not appeal to me at all. After all, this is my son...my baby. Imagine

him making a decision without consulting me?

Then I realized that maybe I should not discourage this behavior. Maybe I should encourage him to make small decisions now with some guidance. That way he learns to think for himself and has the benefit of someone older and wiser to guide him.

But, I learned something too. I learned to let go just a little... just enough to give him some room to grow. He's still my baby, but maybe if I let go just a little bit at a time, it won't be so hard to let



BONITA ARMSTRONG

go when he's all grown up and ready to help run the country.

AVON BEAUTY BEAT

Quick Holiday Tips For Women Of Color

(NAPS)—With the holidays around the corner, you'll want to look your best for parties and evenings out on the town. Miriam Muléy, Avon's director of African-American beauty marketing, offers these hints to help you greet the season with style.

Q: How can I use cosmetics to add a touch of holiday sparkle?

A: The holidays are the perfect time to experiment with richer, bolder make-up looks—and Avon's *Tones of Beauty* cosmetics line for darker skin tones offers the perfect palette. Start with your eyes, your most expressive asset. Choose eyeshadows in varying shades from the same color family—such as sienna with brown, violet with plum, copper with bronze, rose with wine or teal with deep green. For a special effect, try heavier eyeliner, a colored mascara or even eyelids glistening with gold. Use lipsticks that are rich, creamy and full of color in shades that range from brilliant reds to deep wines. Create a subtle warming of the cheeks with a complementary blush. Finally, don't forget the allure of fragrance. One to try—Avon's *Undeniable* inspired by Billy Dee Williams.

Q: What are the newest looks in holiday fashion?

A: Ethnic prints are hot! Kente cloth—brightly patterned fabric adapted from African textiles—can be draped or wrapped as a scarf, shawl or sarong. For evening, accent a



Miriam Muléy, Avon's director of African-American beauty marketing, answers questions about looking great for the holidays.

gold lamé gown with a Kente print for a dazzling combination of holiday spirit and ethnic pride. Moroccan-style jewelry adds a touch of boldness in brilliant earth tones, such as deep garnet, amber and ruby. Another big look: hammered jewelry—earrings and cuff bracelets—add texture and holiday pizzazz.

Q: Help! I love buying gifts but hate holiday shopping. How can I avoid the rush?

A: Try some of the alternative shopping methods available. From gourmet foods to gardening tools to home decorations, there is a home-shopping catalog for everyone. And companies such as Avon stress convenience: You can shop by phone, fax, mail or through a representative for all your gift-giving needs. For more information, call 1-800-FOR-AVON.

ATTORNEY ZNA PORTLOCK APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP SERVICES PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

PASADENA, CA — The Pasadena Tournament of Roses recently announced the appointment of Zna Portlock, Esq. as Director of Membership Services, a newly created staff management position. Selected from a field of more than 200 candidates, Ms. Portlock is the first African-American to be appointed to a management position in the Tournament's 105 years history.

Ms. Portlock's immediate priorities include developing and implementing affirmative action plans for employment, contracting and purchasing, and working with management and volunteer leadership on issues with respect to membership diversity.

Ms. Portlock stated, "It is the Tournament's desire to be more inclusive and to broaden the pool of businesses utilized by the Tournament." "It is my hope," she added, "that the outreach program which we are developing will continue on a year-round basis in a pro-active manner, as opposed to a 'Band-Aid' approach."

The Tournament of Roses, in conjunction with the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, sponsored a vendor opportunity seminar last week. Interested vendors can obtain information on pursuing business opportunities with the Tournament by



ATTORNEY ZNA PORTLOCK calling (818) 449-4100.

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association is a non-profit, working volunteer organization that is comprised of 935 active volunteer members and 15 full-time staffers who work year-round to produce the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game.

Prior to joining the Tournament of October 1, 1993, Zna

Portlock worked as an attorney at law, specializing in labor relations and entertainment law. She was recognized by *Ebony Magazine* in 1992 as one of the "50 Leaders of Tomorrow." She is a very active member of the community and serves on the Board of Directors of Options House which benefits homeless teenagers. She is also a trustee of Bethel A.M.E. Church, a member of the Urbanites, an auxiliary to the Los Angeles Urban League, a member of the National Bar Association and Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles. Portlock also writes a weekly column, "Law Notes With Zna Portlock," for the *Herald Dispatch*, a community-based paper in Los Angeles.

A native of Los Angeles, Ms. Portlock received both a B.A. and J.D. from Pepperdine University in Malibu. She currently resides in Los Angeles.



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